

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing multiple client application programs to communicate with a single input device, said method comprising:
invoking an input device control program in response to a first request received from a first application program, said first request requesting access to said single input device;~~An input device control program which allows multiple client application programs to simultaneously communicate with a single input device;~~
associating a single input device instance to said single input device upon creating said single input device instance according to said input device control program;
generating a first control instance in response to said first request, said first control instance being associated with said first application program;
associating said first control instance to said single input device instance, so that said first application program can access said single input device using said association between said first control instance and said single input device instance;
generating a second control instance in response a second request received from a second application program requesting access to said single input device; and
associating said second control instance to said single input device instance, so that said second application program can access said single input device using said association between said second control instance and said single input device instance. ~~wherein said input device control program is loaded as a process, and~~
~~wherein all subsequent application programs call to said process to establish communication with said single input device.~~
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The input device control program of claim method~~ of 1 wherein said input device comprises a digital Internet video camera.

3. (Currently Amended) The input device control program method of claim 1 wherein said input device comprises a microphone.

4. (Currently Amended) The input device control program method of claim 1 wherein said input device control program comprises routines for:

- a) video control methods comprising:
 - i) initializing a video control;
 - ii) taking digital still images;
 - iii) recording digital video images;
 - iv) obtaining video driver information;
 - v) setting video camera properties; and
 - vi) obtaining video camera properties;
- b) video camera event notification comprising:
 - i) motion detection notification;
 - ii) audio visual (AVI) error notification;
 - iii) camera detached notification; and
 - iv) camera reattached notification.

5. (Currently Amended) The input device control program method of claim 1 wherein said ~~process~~ input device control program is a process that handles all details of network protocols comprising:

- loading said input device control program;
- calling to said input device control program with relevant input/output data;
- buffering input and output to/from said input device control program;
- executing said input device control program; and
- unloading said input device control program.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including an A-input device control program which allows multiple client application programs to simultaneously communicate with an input device, said input control program comprising: wherein said input

~~device control program in response to a first application program calling for a first connection to be established to said input device:~~

~~i)-code for passing es said a call of a first application program's calls to an process' application program interface (API) of a process in response to a request of the first application program to establish a first connection to said input device;~~

~~ii)-code for causing causes-said process' network protocol to load said executable input device control program onto a process server;~~

~~iii)-code for causing causes-said process server to create a single input device instance and connectings said single input device instance to said input device;~~

~~iv)-code for causing causes-said process server to create a first input device control instance and connectings said first input device control instance to said single input device instance;~~

~~v)-code for causing causes-said process server to create an interface through which said client application program communicates with said single input device instance, and~~

~~vi)-code for causing causes-a second input device control instance to be created in response to a call from a second application program calling for a second connection to a said single input device and connecting said second input device control instance to said single input device instance allowing said second application program to communicate with said same single input device instance.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 6, wherein said input device program of claim 6 wherein said input device control program is a distributed component object model (DCOM) executable program which comprises routines for:

a) video control methods comprising:

i) initializing a video control;

ii) taking digital still images;

iii) recording digital video images;

iv) obtaining video driver information;

v) setting video camera properties; and

vi) obtaining video camera properties;

b) video camera event notification comprising:

- i) motion detection notification;
- ii) audiovisual AVI error notification;
- iii) camera detached notification; and
- iv) camera reattached notification.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 6, wherein said input device control program of claim 6 wherein said process is a distributed component object model (DCOM) executable program.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including A-a distributed component object model (DCOM) executable input device control program which allows multiple client application programs to simultaneously communicate with a input device, wherein said program in response to a first application program calling for a first connection to be established to said input device:

- i) passes said first application program's calls to a DCOM application program interface (API);
- ii) causes said DCOM's network protocol to load said executable input device control program onto a DCOM server and;
- iii) causes said DCOM server to create a single input device instance and connects said single input device instance to said input device;
- iv) causes said DCOM server to create a first input device control instance and connects said first input device control instance to said single input device instance;
- v) causes said DCOM server to create an interface through which said; client application program communicates with said single input device instance, and
- vi) creates a second input device control instance to be created in response to a call from a second application program calling for a second connection to a said single input device and connecting said input device instance to said single input device instance allowing said second application program to communicate with said same single input device instance.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer useable medium including a computer program for having computer readable code embodied therein for causing the simultaneous sharing of an input device by multiple application programs running on a host and calling to said input device, said program comprising,

code for invoking an input device control program in response to a first access request received from a first application program requesting access to said single input device;

code for associating a single input device instance to said single input device upon creating said single input device instance according to said input device control program;

code for generating a first control instance in response to said first request, said first control instance being associated with said first application program;

code for associating said first control instance to said single input device instance, so that said first application program can access said single input device using said association between said first control instance and said single input device instance;

code for generating a second control instance in response a second access request received from a second application program requesting access to said single input device; and

code for associating said second control instance to said single input device instance, so that said second application program can access said single input device using said association between said second control instance and said single input device instance. said computer readable code virtualizing an input device driver file,

where said computer readable code is implemented in an executable client-server architecture, where each of said application programs is a client, and

where said computer readable code is a server.

11. (original) The computer useable medium of claim 10 wherein said input device comprises a digital video camera interfaced with said host.

12. (original) The computer useable medium of claim 10 wherein said input device comprises a microphone interfaced with said host.

13. (original) The computer useable medium of claim 10 wherein said host is selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a handheld computer, an interactive

set-top box, a thin client computing device, a personal access device, a personal digital assistant, an internet appliance, an internet connected digital picture frame and combinations thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer useable medium of claim 10 wherein said application programs is implemented in an executable client-server architecture, where each of said application programs is a client, and said input device control program is a server, wherein said application programs communicate with said client-server architecture via a client side mechanism implemented as an input device portal.

15. (original) The computer user medium of claim 14 wherein said input device portal is an ActiveX control.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer useable medium of claim 10 wherein said application programs is implemented in an executable client-server architecture, where each of said application programs is a client, and said input device control program is a server, wherein said application programs communicate with said client-server architecture via a client side mechanism implemented as a virtual source filter.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing multiple client application programs to communicate with a single input device, said method comprising:

i) ~~passing-transmitting a request of a first application program's calls an to a process'~~ application program interface (API) of a process;

ii) ~~loading causing said process' network protocol to load an executable input device control program onto a process server using a network protocol of said process and;~~

iii) ~~causing said process server to create a single input device instance and connecting associating~~ said single input device instance to said single input device;

iv) ~~causing said process server to create a first input device control instance and connecting associating~~ said first input device control instance to said single input device instance;

v) ~~causing said process server to create an interface through which said client application program communicates with said single input device instance, and~~

~~vi)~~ creating a second input device control instance in response to a ~~call~~ request from a second application program calling for a second connection to said single input device and connecting said second input device control instance to said single input device instance to create an interface through which said second client application communicates with said same single input device instance.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein said executable input device control program is a distributed component object model (DCOM) executable program.

19. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein said process is a DCOM process.